

SECRET*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

DATE: 4 January 1949

FROM : Foreign Documents Branch

SUBJECT: FDB Monthly Progress Report

I. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

a. Suspension of Publication - Periodical Abstracts, Bibliographies

Final recommendations made to the Director Central Intelligence by I & S with regard to the classification of Bibliographies of Russian Periodicals and Periodical Abstracts (Scientific and General) were concurred in by ORE, OCD and OO as follows:

- a) Bibliography of Russian Periodicals should remain unclassified.
- b) Periodical Abstracts (General) should be discontinued. In their place, informational reports with a minimum classification of "Confidential" should be published.
- c) Periodical Abstracts (Scientific) should be raised to "Secret."

Publication of the above will remain suspended, pending decision of the Director.

b. Stockpiling of Yugoslav Publications

No documents have as yet been received by FDB under agreements whereby the State Department is conducting a coordinated procurement of Yugoslav publications through its own sources.

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e. Transliteration

The first meeting of the CIA Transliteration Committee was held on 29 December 1948 at which time the Acting Chief, Foreign Documents Branch was elected its permanent chairman.

II. Accomplishments

a. Procurement Officer Briefing

Foreign Documents Branch has completed and forwarded to CIA Library, OCD, a statement of requirements for the briefing of procurement officers in implementing the purchase of foreign language publications under blanket allotment.

b. FDB-ORE-CIA Library Agreement

No confirming memorandum from OCD as a result of verbal arrangements made between FDB, ORE and CIA Library OCD with regard to the procurement of foreign periodicals has as yet been received.

c. Translation of SO Documents

During the month arrangements were concurred in by the AD/CO and AD/ORE whereby Foreign Documents Branch will translate documents of interest to ORE which have been acquired from OSC.

d. FDB-CIA Library Agreement - Handling of Foreign Language Documents

No confirmation has as yet been received with regard to the operating agreement between CIA Library and Foreign Documents Branch on the handling of all foreign language documents.

e. Suspension of Provisional Clearance

A memorandum to the Executive Director through AD/CO was forwarded 20 Dec 1948 pointing out the value of provisionally employed language personnel to the operations of Foreign Documents Branch. It is the contention of Foreign Documents Branch that the severely restricted number of persons in the provisionally cleared translator pool will seriously effect the Foreign Documents Branch procurement of personnel. Almost without exception, the prospective employees of this branch are in the lower pay brackets and cannot afford to wait for full clearance. It is a foregone conclusion that the majority of those in process of clearance as well as those now being tested will be lost to this branch before full security clearance is granted.

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f. Exploitation of Russian Periodicals - AMC, Wright Field

During the month, discussions were held with Col. Clingerman and Lt. Col. Davitt of T-2 AMC, Wright Field with regard to the exploitation of Russian periodicals. As a result of discussions, Col. Clingerman felt that Foreign Documents Branch Periodical Abstracts completely satisfied Wright Field needs with regard to articles in currently available Russian Technical periodicals. They will, however, continue their contract translations until more satisfactory arrangements can be effected. Arrangements were made for Foreign Documents Branch to receive copies of such translations as were made for them.

g. Army Library, Department of Army

A survey and assessment of 20,000 miscellaneous foreign language books and pamphlets now stored in Army warehouse indicate that about one percent of the contents is of interest to Foreign Documents Branch. Items of interest will be forwarded as required.

h. Blueprints, Profiles - USSR Railways

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25X1A Pursuant to AD/OO memorandum, [] Transportation Group and [] Map Branch, ORE have assessed the blue prints and profiles of USSR Railroads now in GMDS as being of great value but too detailed for ORE purposes. They have suggested that other interested agencies be contacted and agreements made for microfilming the collection.

i. State Department German Collection.

Foreign Documents Branch has completed surveying the State Department holdings of captured German documents for material of strategic intelligence interest. Roughly 15,000 pages of microfilm data sheets covering the collection, representing microfilm of 1,000,000 pages of German Foreign Office documents have been screened. Listings of pertinent items will be forwarded to OPC, ORE and OSO.

j. Foreign Documents Branch Operations in the Event of War.

Foreign Documents Branch recommendations re memorandum from Chief, ICAPS, dated 15 December 1948 were forwarded to AD/OO. War plans for Foreign Documents Branch are presently being drawn up and should be completed in January.

III. Projects Contemplated or Recommended

a. Use of Military Personnel - Foreign Documents Branch

In a memorandum to AD/OO dated 11 October 1948, it was suggested that qualified linguists be called to duty by the Army, Navy, and Air Force and detailed for duty with Foreign Documents Branch.

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This action, it is believed, would greatly increase the ability of this organization to meet the respective demands for translation received from the Army, Navy and Air Force. As yet action is still pending.

b. Discussions with ICAPS - Translation Service

Affirmative action is still pending on recommendations made by AD/OC in a memorandum forwarded to ICAPS. A meeting is anticipated in January at which time IAC representatives will further discuss the problem of a centralized translation service.

c. Proposed Publication of Accession Lists by Foreign Documents Branch

Contingent upon further discussions with OCD, the Foreign Documents Branch proposal to publish an accession list publication for foreign language books of intelligence value has as yet to receive final concurrence.

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